

RESOLUTIONS REPORT TO THE CONVENTION

The Committee on Resolutions of the 191st annual session (2025) of the Missouri Baptist Convention submits this report to the Convention.

RESOLUTIONS RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION

The Committee on Resolutions recommends that the Convention adopt the following resolutions:

Resolution No. 1: Courtesy Resolution to Express Appreciation

WHEREAS, the officers, committees, and staff of the Executive Board of the Missouri Baptist Convention have, through their preparation, labor, and spirit, contributed to a successful Convention; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Local Arrangements Committee along with the Director of Missions and staff of the Tri-County Baptist Association, have made every effort to make our stay in this area comfortable; and

WHEREAS, the Branson Convention Center and the Branson Hilton Hotel have assisted with preparations and have made their excellent facilities and competent staff available to host this meeting; be it

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the 191st Annual Session of the Missouri Baptist Convention in Branson, Missouri, October 28, 2025, express our grateful appreciation to the staff of the Executive Board and to the officers and committees of the Missouri Baptist Convention for an excellent and orderly program and for their leadership in these Convention sessions; be it further

RESOLVED, that we express our sincere appreciation to the members of the Local Arrangements Committee, and to the Director of Missions and staff of the Tri-County Baptist Association, whose thorough preparation and hospitality have contributed greatly to the comfort and convenience of the messengers and visitors of the Convention; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we thank the Branson Convention Center and the Branson Hilton Hotel for their hospitality and help during this session of the Missouri Baptist Convention.

Resolution No. 2: On Our Continued Fight for Life

WHEREAS, the Missouri Baptist Convention (MBC), a network of more than 1,700 independent Southern Baptist churches throughout Missouri, affirms the inherent God-given right to life of children, including the unborn, as the MBC declared in *Section XVIII, The Family, of The Baptist Faith & Message 2000* (adopted June 14, 2000 and amended June 14, 2023), that “Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord;” and

WHEREAS, we as Missouri Baptists have continually demonstrated our commitment to life and remain resolute in contending for the right to life of all unborn persons (Resolution 7 of 2019, Resolution 5 of 2021, Resolution 4 of 2022, Resolution 4 of 2024, to name but a few); and

WHEREAS, the people of Missouri have repeatedly chosen, through their duly elected representatives in the legislative and executive bodies, to establish state laws that defend innocent life in the womb and protect women from the immense harm of abortion; and

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WHEREAS, the 2024 Constitutional Amendment 3 which passed by a slim margin of 1.6% in November of 2024 and has enshrined abortion all 9 months of pregnancy even up to the moment of birth in our Missouri Constitution and that now invalidates all existing legislative pro-life protections, including the recently enacted Heartbeat Bill (HB 126, 2019) and the requirement that a minor child obtain parental consent prior to undergoing an abortion; and

WHEREAS, Missouri lawmakers approved a referendum seeking the repeal of the “Right to Reproductive Freedom Amendment” in May of this year; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court’s historic reversal of *Roe v. Wade* on June 24, 2022, has returned to Missouri and her sister states the full authority to completely prohibit abortion within their borders; and

WHEREAS, an abortion is the deliberate taking of an innocent human life; and

WHEREAS, Missourians cannot stand by and watch innocent babies lose their lives to the horrendous act of abortion; rather, we must take action to save those we can now and fight to save all babies as we have over the last 50+ years; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers of the Missouri Baptist Convention, meeting in Branson, Missouri, October 28, 2025, hold to our resolute stand to protect all life of all unborn persons by our votes, our advocacy, and our prayer, understanding the importance of saving every life providentially possible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Missouri Baptist Convention strongly supports the 2026 Amendment 3 with the language put forth by the duly elected legislators of Missouri to change the Missouri Constitution back to one that values and cherishes life from the moment of conception; and therefore, urges all Missourians to **VOTE YES on Amendment 3** in 2026; and be it finally

RESOLVED, and we call upon the Missouri Baptist Convention to continue to contend for and defend the right to life of all unborn persons as our ultimate goal.

Resolution No. 3: On God's Work, Immigration, and Ministry

WHEREAS, people from every nation, tribe, and language are special creations of God, being made in His image (Genesis 1:26-27; 2:7; 9:6; Colossians 1:16) and having inherent value and dignity; and

WHEREAS, God has ordained human government to both restrain evil and promote the good

of its people, by enacting and enforcing laws that secure national borders, provide direction for entering a nation’s sovereign space, manage the citizenship process, respond to the failures of other nations when their citizens appeal for asylum or refugee status, and respect the principle of subsidiarity when individuals need benevolence (Exodus 18:13-27; Romans 13:1-7; 1 Timothy 5:4, 8; 1 Peter 2:13-14); and

WHEREAS, many immigrants are positive contributors to our communities, including countless Christian brothers and sisters who worship alongside us and serve faithfully in our churches, and as recipients of God's mercy ourselves, we are called to extend that same mercy to others (Matthew 5:7; James 2:13-14); and

WHEREAS, illegal immigration creates legitimate concerns regarding the rule of law, national security, human trafficking, drug smuggling, human exploitation, extortion,

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violent crime, organized crime, and the erosion of the will to honor the legal process to enter and remain within a country; and

WHEREAS, families, communities, and nations are obligated to care for their members, respecting their particular spheres of responsibility, and, when they fail to do so, people strive to protect themselves from the resulting poverty, disease, violence, and warfare; and

WHEREAS, no individual has a natural right to enter or gain citizenship from any nation other than his or her own native country, it's nonetheless appropriate for nations to establish border, immigration, and asylum laws that foster goodwill, economic opportunity, etc.; and

WHEREAS, while churches commend the biblical role and responsibility of governing authorities, in the work of enacting and enforcing border and immigration laws, churches continue to strive to reflect the kingdom of heaven which includes people from every nation, tribe, and language, who seek to love God and love their neighbors as themselves, demonstrated by the multi-national, multi-ethnic congregations among the churches of the Missouri Baptist Convention; and

WHEREAS, God commands us to share the gospel with all people (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8), discipling them to obey all that Christ commanded, including obedience to human law, and has called us to Christ-likeness in our interaction with others; now, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the Missouri Baptist Convention, meeting in Branson, Missouri, October 28, 2025, affirm the inherent dignity and value of all people, regardless of their race, religion, ethnicity, national origin, or legal status; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we affirm the God-given right and responsibility of the United States government to enact and enforce laws that don't violate God's law, or the Constitution of the United States; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we affirm the Gospel mission of the churches and ministries of the Missouri Baptist Convention, as they strive to see souls saved, lives changed, physical needs met, families flourish, and society blessed, modeling the compassion of Christ, the hope of the Gospel, and the dignity of every human being made in the image of God; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we commend Missouri Baptists who minister, with truth and grace, among immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, praying that their example will be well followed.

Resolution No. 4: On Education

WHEREAS, God has given parents the responsibility for the upbringing and education of their children (Deuteronomy 6:6-7; Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4); and

WHEREAS, God has charged pastors and congregations to evangelize and disciple parents, as they strive to raise and educate children according to God's design, providing encouragement and support as needed; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of education is focused upon the pursuit of that which is true, good, commendable, and beautiful, comporting with God's creation order, and helpful in preparing individuals to better engage with family, community, government, and employment; and

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WHEREAS, thorough education is not possible without a fear of God, respecting His truth, authority, and purpose, requiring an understanding of and belief in God's Word; and

WHEREAS, educational outcomes within Missouri's public education system are increasingly problematic, rendering students ill-prepared to identify and understand that which is true, good, commendable, and beautiful, in addition to being underdeveloped for higher education or their chosen professions; and

WHEREAS, familial, sexual, and social norms being promoted and celebrated within Missouri's public education system are the fruit of radical, ungodly ideologies, and as such are antithetical to God's Word, the Christian world-view, and human flourishing; and

WHEREAS, parental rights and authority, in the upbringing and education of their children, is rapidly eroding as a result of the influence of radical, ungodly ideologies; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Missouri State Teachers Association, the Missouri National Education Association, the American Federation of Teachers, and undergraduate education programs are at a minimum accommodating, if not pushing, these radical, ungodly ideologies; and

WHEREAS, convictional Christian teachers, working within public education, are striving to "bring Christ" with them, as they work to educate students, though often expected to "keep their heads down" as those not aligned with the majority perspective; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers of the Missouri Baptist Convention, meeting in Branson, Missouri, October 28, 2025, urge parents, pastors, congregations, and educators to be discerningly faithful, and appropriately engaged in education; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we encourage parents to exercise educational choices that best align with their calling in the upbringing and education of their children; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we call upon legislators to remove statutory barriers to educational freedom and choice, and be it further

RESOLVED, that we call upon all educators who claim the name of Christ to separate themselves from educational organizations that promote godlessness and/or work to transform such organizations so that Christ-honoring, creation order positions are advocated; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we urge our churches to assist and support the children within their circles of influence, as well as their parents, in providing education that promotes rather than opposes biblical values.

Resolution No. 5: On Protecting Minors from Pornography and Social Media

WHEREAS, God calls His people to holiness and Christ has specifically summoned His followers to sexual purity (Matthew 5:27-28; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5); and

WHEREAS, sexual sin robs us of our joy in God and is especially grievous to our souls (1 Corinthians 6:18); and

WHEREAS, Matthew 18:6 says, "but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea"; and

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WHEREAS, increasing numbers of our children have been victimized by this insidious industry, not only through child pornography, but also by the active marketing of pornographic content to adolescents; and

WHEREAS, Justice Clarence Thomas, writing the majority opinion for *Free Speech Coalition v. Paxton* stated, “The power to require age verification is within a State’s authority to prevent children from accessing sexually explicit content...” and additionally stated, “[The First Amendment] was not originally understood to protect obscene expression, especially when such expression might be received by minors...”; and

WHEREAS, Scripture charges human government with the responsibility of protecting the innocent (Romans 13:1-7); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers of the Missouri Baptist Convention, meeting in Branson, Missouri, October 28, 2025, express our grief over the devastating effects of the pornography industry; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we commit ourselves, as disciples of Christ, to purity in thought, word, and deed; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we call upon Christian parents to be better informed about the availability of pornography through technology to children and to protect their children by monitoring their use of digital devices; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we call on Missouri Baptist churches to increasingly teach the whole counsel of God regarding sexual purity, human dignity, and the dangers of pornography; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we call on government authorities to enact and enforce laws that restrict all forms of pornography, particularly those that include and exploit minors; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we call on Missouri’s governing authorities to enact and enforce laws that require age verification for adult content websites and protect minors from the harmful presence of social media.

Resolution No. 6: On the Importance of Public School Chaplains

WHEREAS, chaplains have long been allowed in Congress, the military, prisons, colleges, hospitals, police departments, and private companies; and

WHEREAS, our Missouri legislature recently passed a law, which was signed by Governor Mike Kehoe, that allows school districts and charter schools to utilize chaplains, whether employed or volunteers; now, therefore, let it be

RESOLVED, that the messengers of the Missouri Baptist Convention, meeting in Branson, Missouri, October 28, 2025, thank our state legislators and governor for acknowledging the need for chaplains in public schools; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we encourage our churches to provide chaplains to serve Missouri public schools and charter schools to fulfill our calling to provide for the care of the souls of the young people in our communities and to allow them to see and experience the love of Jesus Christ through those chaplains.

DISPOSITION OF RESOLUTIONS

The Committee on Resolutions took the following actions respecting the disposition of resolutions submitted by messengers to the Convention, the subject matters of which are addressed in the resolutions recommended for adoption:

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Resolution submitted by Susan Klein on Supporting Missouri Constitutional Amendment 3 in 2026, see Resolution No. 2.

Resolution submitted by the Christian Life Commission on Our Continued Fight for Life, see Resolution No. 2.

Resolution submitted by the Christian Life Commission on Our Commitment to Border Security, Just Treatment, and Christlike Mercy on the Issue of Immigration, see Resolution No. 3.

Resolution submitted by Timothy Faber on Education, see Resolution No. 4.

Resolution submitted by William Isaacson on Protecting Minors from Pornography, see Resolution No. 5.

Resolution submitted by the Christian Life Commission to Provide a Whole Education of Children in Body, Mind, Soul, and Spirit, see Resolution No. 6.

RESOLUTIONS NOT REPORTED OUT

The Committee on Resolutions does not recommend the following resolutions submitted by messengers to the Convention:

Resolution submitted by Adam Woodrum on Equal Protection of the Laws for Preborn Children.

Resolution submitted by Daniel Statesel to Continue Our Commitment to Reject Partiality in Judgement and Elective Abortion.

Resolution submitted by Raymond Cabello on Calling for the Restoration of Federal Protected Area Policies.

Resolution submitted by Steve Nicholson on Obedience to God.

Respectfully submitted, Committee on Resolutions

Doug Richey, First Baptist Church, Kearney
Beth Atchison, Crossway Baptist Church, Springfield
Adam Cruse, First Baptist Church, Arnold
Lane Harrison, LifePoint Church, Ozark
Josh Wilson, Storyline Church, Saint Louis